

NEAR EASTERN STUDIES (PHD)

Graduate School

Program Website (<https://neareasternstudies.cornell.edu/>)

CIP: 05.0108 | HEGIS: 1101.00 | NYSED: 13351

Graduate Field

Near Eastern Studies (<https://catalog.cornell.edu/graduate-school/near-eastern-studies/>)

Program Description

The graduate program in Near Eastern studies emphasizes the languages, literatures, history, and cultures of the Near East. It is designed to help students acquaint themselves with the fundamental elements of these cultures, and also to acquire a high degree of specialization in one or more of the following areas: ancient Near Eastern studies (including archaeology); Arabic literature; biblical studies; early Christianity; Hebrew literature; Islamic studies; Judaic studies; and the modern Middle East.

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree are expected to demonstrate mastery in the language or languages of the main texts that are directly related to the topic of their dissertations. Students are advised to determine early in their training the special field of their concentration and to consult their advisors about linguistic requirements.

Before the end of the sixth term of graduate study, each Ph.D. degree candidate must demonstrate competence in reading scholarly secondary materials in two of the following languages, chosen in consultation with their committee chair: French, German, modern Greek, modern Hebrew, Italian, Russian, and Spanish. Candidates for the master's degree must demonstrate competence in one of those languages at least one term before the degree is awarded.

Concentrations

- Near eastern studies

Program Information

- Instruction Mode: In Person
- Location: Ithaca, NY
- Minimum Credits for Degree: 120

Program Requirements

- 4 semesters of GRAD Research course
- 3 years of full-time coursework
- Minimum Semesters for Degree: 8

Graduate School Milestones

- Responsible Conduct of Research Training: Required
- Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID): Required
- Student Progress Reviews (SPR) begin: First Year
- Examination for admission to candidacy (A Exam): Before seventh semester begins

- Defense of Dissertation (B Exam): After completion of all degree requirements

Field Specific Milestones

- Qualifying Examination (Q Exam): Spring of second year
- Modern research language exam in the spring of the first year
- Second modern research language exam in the spring of the second year
- Teaching assistantships are required to receive funding

Course Requirements

Additional course requirements may be set by the student's Special Committee. Program specific requirements that apply to all students are included below.

- NES 6722 Graduate Colloquium every semester
- NES 6800 Practicum in Near Eastern Studies completed within the first three years
- Language courses to prepare for modern research language exams

University Graduation Requirements Requirements for All Students

In order to receive a Cornell degree, a student must satisfy academic and non-academic requirements.

Academic Requirements

A student's college determines degree requirements such as residency, number of credits, distribution of credits, and grade averages. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of the specific major, degree, distribution, college, and graduation requirements for completing their chosen program of study. See the individual requirements listed by each college or school or contact the college registrar's office (<https://registrar.cornell.edu/service-resources/college-registrar-directory/>) for more information.

Non-academic Requirements

Conduct Matters. Students must satisfy any outstanding sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed or agreed to under the Student Code of Conduct (Code) or Policy 6.4. Where a formal complaint under the Code or Policy 6.4 is pending, the University will withhold awarding a degree otherwise earned until the adjudication process set forth in those procedures is complete, including the satisfaction of any sanctions, penalties or remedies imposed.

Financial Obligations. Outstanding financial obligations will not impact the awarding of a degree otherwise earned or a student's ability to access their official transcript. However, the University may withhold issuing a diploma until any outstanding financial obligations owing to the University are satisfied.

Learning Outcomes

- Demonstrate in-depth knowledge of their chosen area(s) of expertise
- Demonstrate broad knowledge of theory and scholarship across relevant sub-fields
- Demonstrate advanced research skills

- Demonstrate the ability to produce and communicate original, publishable research
- Demonstrate the ability to teach effectively